

# GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 8

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 25, 2005

## In brief

### Track and field closure

The Fitness Center track and football field are closed until Tuesday to resurface the track. Base personnel are encouraged to use the NCO Academy track or the Beacon Beach Road Running Trail as alternate locations.



## What's inside



Privatized housing for Tyndall  
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### The ORI is coming ...



... 114 days and counting



2nd Lt. William Powell

## These boots are made for walking

Airman Christine Weaver, the assistant dedicated crew chief for Tyndall's newest F/A-22 Raptor, puts on a pair of booties over her work boots before climbing onto the jet's wings to inspect for loose fasteners or seals. Tyndall received aircraft 4038 Feb. 17, which brings Tyndall's total number of Raptors to 21.

# Tyndall policy puts lock on 'latchkey' kids

**2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A new operating instruction formalizing Tyndall's child and youth supervision policies became effective here Feb. 10.

The OI outlines how and when children may be left unattended in base housing and motor vehicles and lists babysitting guidelines.

The instruction states children under the age of nine are not authorized to be left alone in base housing. Children ages 10-11 can be left alone up to two hours, but must complete a Home Alone training course offered at the Tyndall Youth Center.

Twelve to 15-year-olds may be left unsupervised up to 10 day-light hours and four hours

after dark, but must complete a babysitting course if providing care for siblings. Teens 16 years and older may be left alone up to 72 hours and, upon completion of the babysitting course, can care for siblings or non-related children.

The program is designed to reduce risks associated with leaving children unsupervised and to establish guidelines ensuring each child is prepared to be left alone before doing so, said Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th Services Squadron commander.

"Parents still need to apply their own judgment," he said. "Potential problems exist no matter what age we're talking about. Children who are not consistently demonstrating be-

havior appropriate to their age shouldn't be given the same degree of 'self-management' responsibility as other children of the same age that are more responsible."

According to Sandra Lockwood, 325th SVS Family Member Programs chief, all base housing families need to comply with this new program to ensure the safety and well-being of every child.

"The three hour Home Alone class answers many of the 'what if' questions such as 'what if a stranger comes to my door,'" Ms. Lockwood said. "This class will be offered the third Saturday of each month or as needed."

The American Red Cross-approved babysitting course

provides CPR and first aid training and emergency procedures that babysitters need to know, said Alma Hooks, Youth Center Youth Programs director.

"The babysitting course is split into two different days," she said. "The first two babysitting classes will be 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and March 30-31," Ms. Hooks said.

Pre-registration is necessary for the Home Alone and babysitting classes, and parents can register their children at the Youth Center, or call 283-4326.

Parents are encouraged to view the entire TAFBI 34-202 publication at <https://e-publishing.tyndall.af.mil>.



THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGES

Hello Team Tyndall!

“To Stabilize a Nation ...So Freedom Can Flourish,” is our mission at the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq.

Team Tyndall Airmen are representing (our base) very proudly and leaning forward in multiple ways.

They work extremely hard, long hours, all shifts, in a lot of rain and mud. In every event or function, Team Tyndall Airmen are contributing on a large scale. They do not hesitate to take charge of projects and participate in extra duty tasks or just support their fellow comrades. Kirkuk is our home for just a couple of months, but the contributions and accomplishments will be

felt and seen all over this base for years to come.

We appreciate from the bottom of our hearts the love, support, care and mail packages we have received from our family members – to us *they* are our heroes! Thanks also to our squadrons, sections and shops for helping our families there at Tyndall and us here.

Please keep praying for our deployed militaryand civilian personnel all over Iraq, Afghanistan and remote places around the world. Your thoughts, prayers and love are supporting us.

Thanks and Blessings!

Chaplain (Capt.) Hector Colon  
506th AEG

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE  
68901  
MADE IN U. S. A.



Staff Sgt. Carissa Lee

**Right: Front row from left** - SrA Calvin Hawkins, SSgt. Scott Simmons, SMSgt. Robert Lewis, SSgt. Demeko Marshall, A1C Robert Huskey, MSgt. Matthew Standish, SSgt. Benito Colon, and MSgt. Ed Best. **Back row from left** - A1C Steve Melecio, Capt. Benita Arceneaux, SSgt. Jerry Hernandez, SSgt. Charles Hargett, Senior Airman Matthew Ritchie, MSgt. Keith Wade, A1C Catricee Roberts, SrAAlan Lawson, and SrA Timothy Goodwin.



Staff Sgt. Carissa Lee

**Above: Front row from left** - SrA James Rinkel, Chaplain (Capt.) Hector Colon, A1C Michael Marte, and SrA Katie Downer. **Back row from left** - SSgt. Justin Tabert, SSgt. Jeremy McFall, SSgt. Jerome Capalad, and A1C Steve Melecio.

# ‘I want what you have — freedom’

**LT. COL. ZYNA C. CAPTAIN**  
Air Force Doctrine Center

**MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. (AFP)** — On Feb. 11, 1984, I married my husband in a cheap-looking wedding chapel by a casino in Lake Tahoe. I was wearing three-inch heels and carrying daisies. Little did I know 20 years later, on the exact same day, I would be in Iraq, wearing desert combat boots and carrying a 9mm weapon.

I vividly remember standing in Baghdad as

soldiers from Task Force 1st Armored Division’s 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, were providing aid to victims and securing a blast site. A sedan carrying explosives had just blown up in front of an Iraqi army recruiting station killing 47 Iraqi men.

This was one of many unforgettable events that occurred during my 4-month deployment to Baghdad. This tragedy made me realize how sacred democracy is to people who don’t have it.

Only 11 months after I witnessed the tragic results of the explosion, Iraqis voted in their country’s first free elections in 50 years. It’s because of America’s involvement and that our current president recalled our place in history to assist this fledging nation.

President Bush said, “In great numbers, and under great risk, Iraqis have shown their commitment to democracy. By participating in free elections, the Iraqi people have firmly rejected the anti-democratic ideology of the terrorists.

They have refused to be intimidated by thugs and assassins. The Iraqi people themselves made this election a resounding success.”

While I agree that elections were a step toward a brighter future for Iraq, I had an unexpected teacher who humbled me. His reality was that democracy is a material possession and not an ideal.

This happened while I was overseeing

● SEE FREEDOM PAGE 16

Gulf Defender Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton ..... 325th FW commander

Capt. Susan A. Romano ..... chief, 325th FW public affairs

1st Lt. Albert Bosco ..... chief, internal information

2nd Lt. William Powell ..... deputy chief, internal information

Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek ..... editor

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to [editor@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:editor@tyndall.af.mil). Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.



# Wing commander answers Satellite Pharmacy question

*(Editor's note: The following question came from a concerned Tyndall member, who called the Action Line.)*

I was told by the NCO of patient advocacy six months ago that plans were in the works for an expansion of the Satellite Pharmacy and the addition of a numbering system to more comfortably accommodate the elderly, sickly and handicapped. So far, there has been no expansion or addition of furniture and no numbering system to aid the process of making these folks more comfortable and getting them out of the cold weather. I would like to know why this has not happened yet.

The Medical Group recently underwent an \$8.8 million renovation project, which included renovation of the Main Clinic Pharmacy and lobby, installation of an automated drug dispensing system and a brand new 23,000 square foot clinic addition in which the Family Practice, Pediatrics, and Women's Health clinics are located. Additionally, the Satellite Pharmacy has ordered a numbered queuing system, which should be installed in March. Once the new queuing system is installed, the Satellite Pharmacy's back lobby will also be opened, providing additional seating for those customers who prefer to sit while waiting. Prescription refills may also be called into the Satellite Pharmacy's automated system at 283-7177 or toll free 1-800-356-5273, and will be ready for pick-up the next duty day.

Other alternatives for customers who are elderly,

sick, or handicapped, as well as those who may not want to travel include the TriCare Mail-Order Pharmacy and Retail Pharmacy Network.

The mail order pharmacy offers 90-day supplies (as indicated on prescription) of non-controlled substance generic prescriptions for \$3 and brand name prescriptions for \$9. Refills can be authorized by the provider and prescriptions are sent directly to the patient's address. Typically, it takes 14 days to process the medication. Further information is available by calling (866) 363-8667, or online by visiting [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com).

Nearly all pharmacies in the Florida Panhandle area are participating TriCare Network Pharmacies. Prescription costs for a 30-day supply under this option are \$3 for generic prescriptions and \$9 for brand name. Active-duty military are not charged a co-pay. Valid military identification is required and must be presented when dropping off prescriptions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our staff at either the Main Pharmacy at 283-7557 or the Satellite Pharmacy 283-7050.



## Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

**BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON**  
325th Fighter Wing commander



## ON THE S T R E E T

# If you could have an incentive ride, which aircraft would you choose?



"I'm getting an F-15 Eagle ride, but I would love to get one in the Raptor."

**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS  
KENNETH HARLAN**  
1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit



"The F/A-22 Raptor because it is the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world."

**STAFF SGT. STEVEN MURPHY**  
1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit



"The F-16 Fighting Falcon because I have spent most of my career working with it, yet have never had a ride."

**SENIOR MASTER SGT. DON LOWERY**  
1st Air Force



"The F/A-22 Raptor because I have heard a lot of things about it. I think it would be a great experience."

**CAPT. ROSEMARY GILLIAM**  
Base Legal Office

**AADD saves lives!**

**Lives saved in 2004: 356**

**Lives saved this year: 25**



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# Tyndall housing communities closer to privatization

**GLENN LATTANZE**  
325th Civil Engineer Squadron

Tyndall Air Force Base is well on its way to privatizing its military family housing, and the Headquarters Air Education and Training Command-led acquisition support team will begin evaluating the proposals from multiple contractors in early March.

Between April and December, Air Force leaders and the highest-ranked contractor will discuss the details of the proposal and will develop a detailed construction and management plan. Once

complete, the Office of the Secretary of Defense will review and approve the plan and Congress will be notified. The current plan calls for Tyndall's housing units to be officially turned over to the successful offeror sometime around January 2006.

Privatizing military family housing is a DOD-wide initiative that is proving successful throughout the United States. In housing privatization, a developer is given all the housing units on the base and a lease on the land they occupy. The developer is required to renovate or rebuild

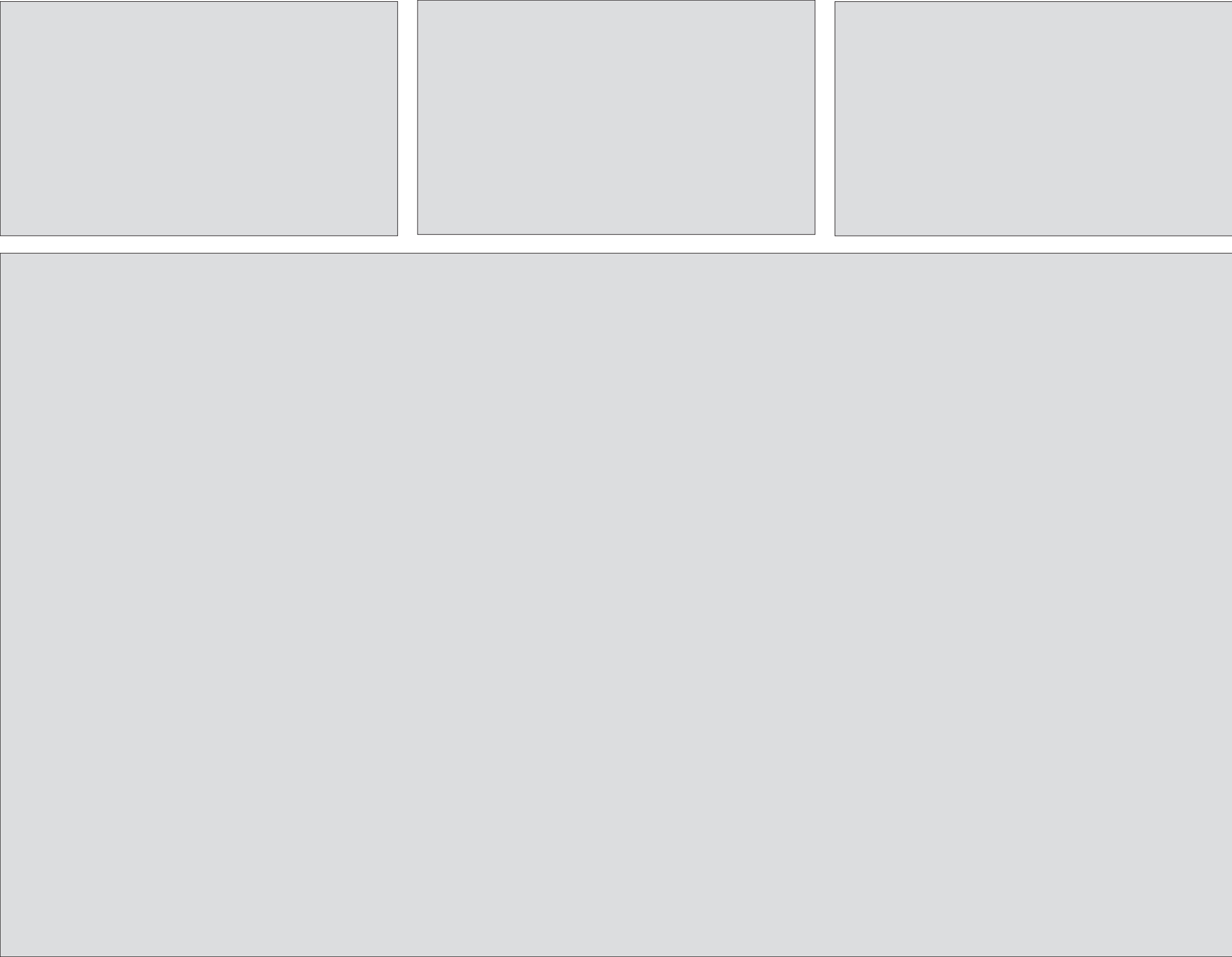
the houses to Air Force and local community standards, then maintain and renovate them as necessary over the next 50 years.

"The military families win because they will have an opportunity to live in housing that is equivalent to a new or newly renovated subdivision downtown," said Lt. Col. Curt Van De Walle, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron commander. "The developer wins because he has a reliable source of income for the next 50 years, and the Air Force wins by providing nice housing to its families at the

cost of the members' monthly housing allowance. It's definitely a "win-win-win" situation."

Tyndall's privatization effort has been underway since November 2003, when the first project development team meeting took place. The team consists of personnel from most key organizations on base, and has been instrumental in formulating the direction of the privatization concept. Tyndall's concept is to make minimal improvements to the Redfish

● SEE HOUSING PAGE 18



# Troops get tax credit options

GERRY J. GILMORE  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Servicemembers receiving federal tax exemptions for some or all of their military pay may now elect to apply for certain tax credit options, the chief of the Armed Forces Tax Council said Feb. 17.

Troops deployed to combat zones can now apply for tax refunds based on earned income tax credits, as well as additional child tax credits, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, the council's executive director. The council monitors and coordinates tax issues involving active-duty and reserve-component servicemembers.

The earned income credit, Colonel Fenton said, primarily involves lower-income filers with children. The additional child tax credit, she said, may provide refunds for children younger than age 17.

Servicemembers who want to apply for the credit refunds are required to fill out and file a federal tax return, she said.

Enlisted troops serving in combat areas already have all of their military pay excluded from federal taxes, Colonel Fenton said, while officers in combat zones can exclude as much as \$6,529 of their monthly pay.

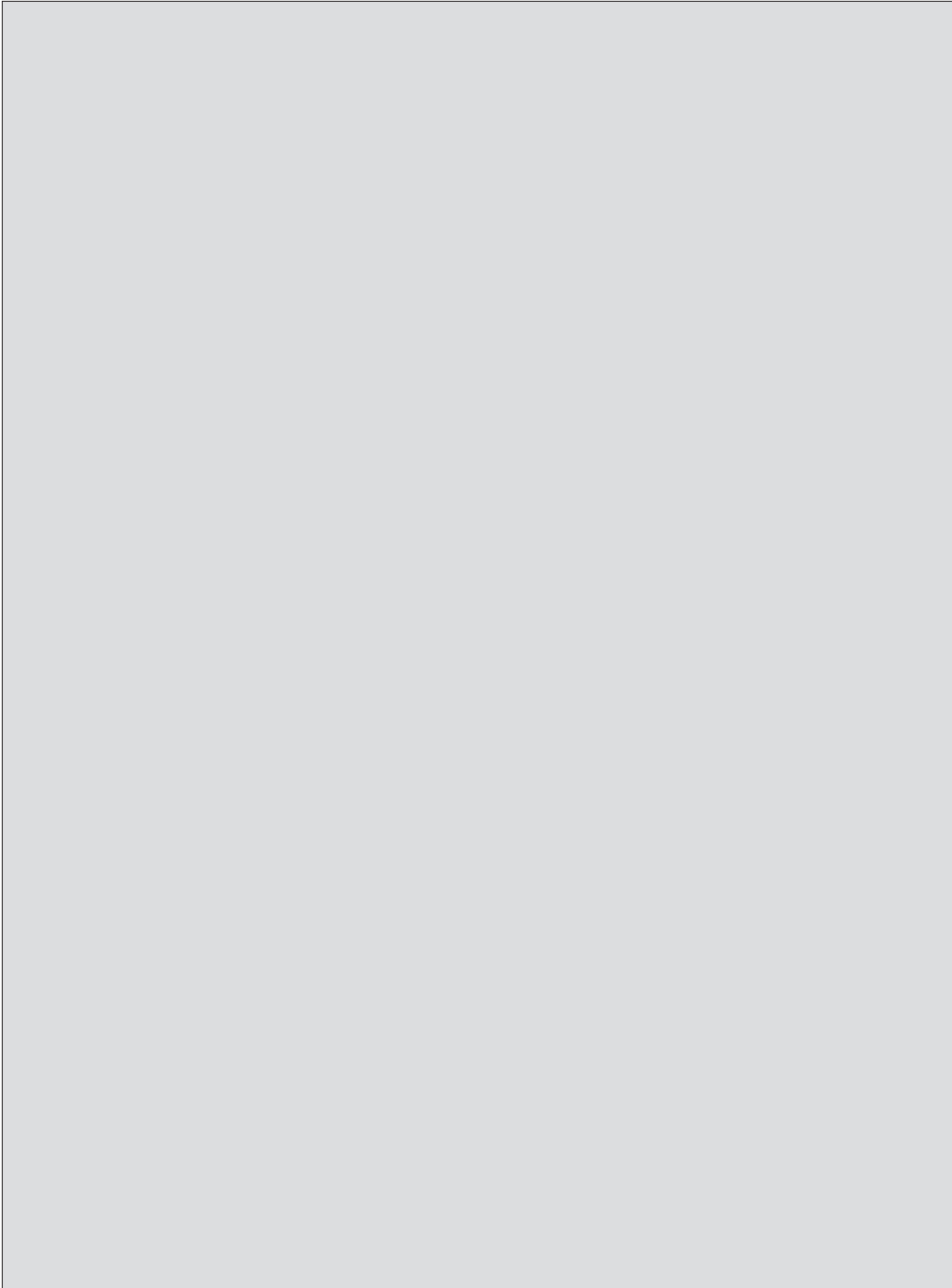
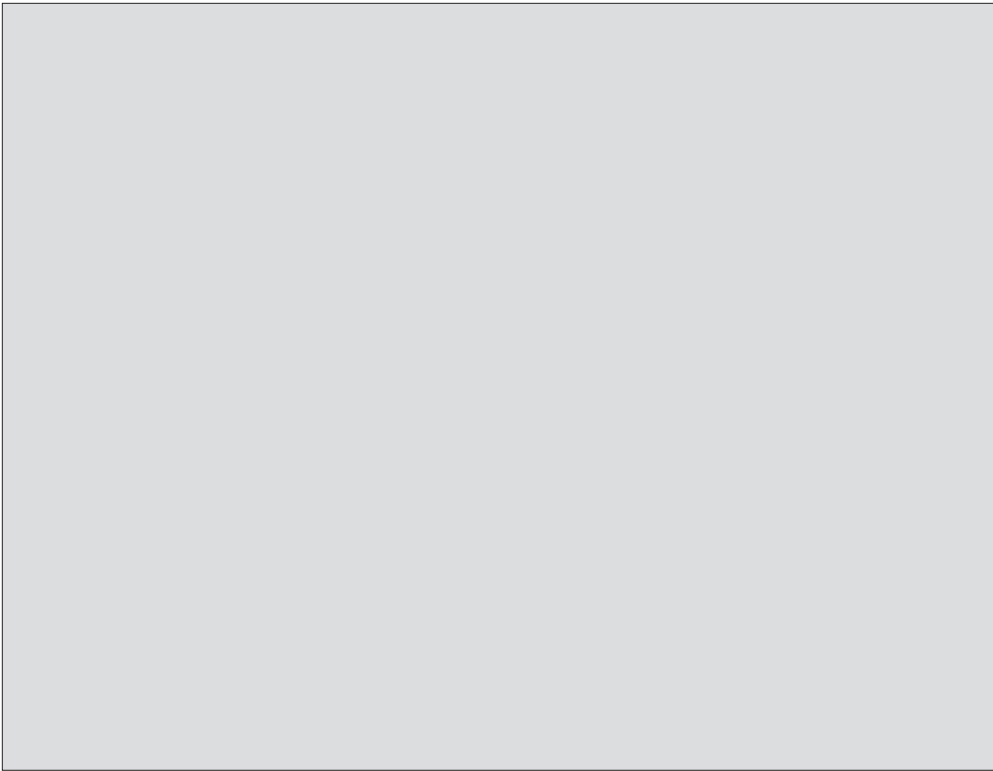
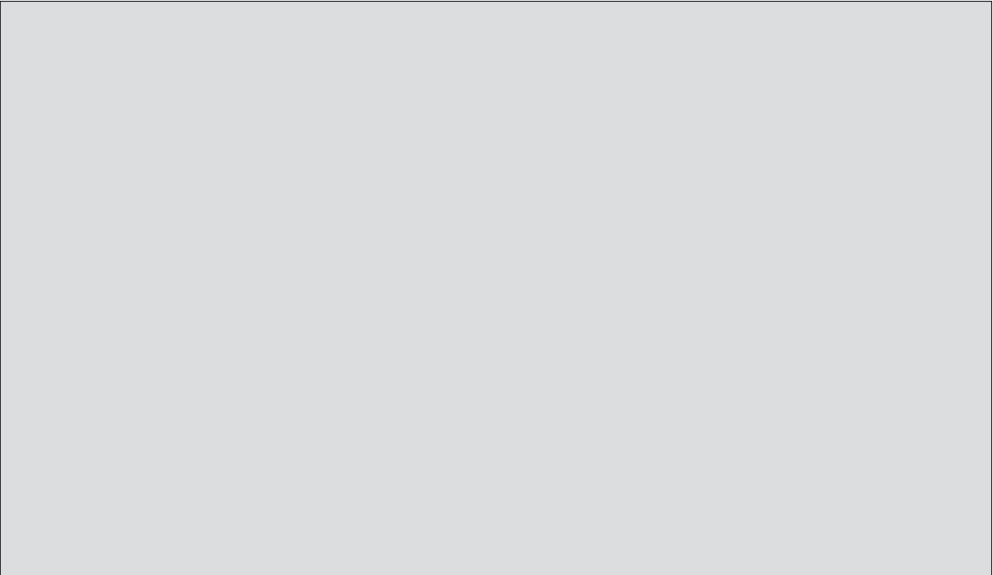
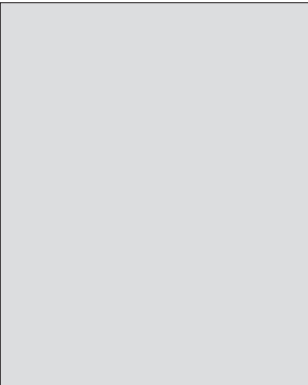
Troops deployed to noncombat overseas areas have until June 15 to file their income taxes, she said.

Troops serving in a combat zone, the colonel said, have up to 180 days to file their taxes after departing the area.

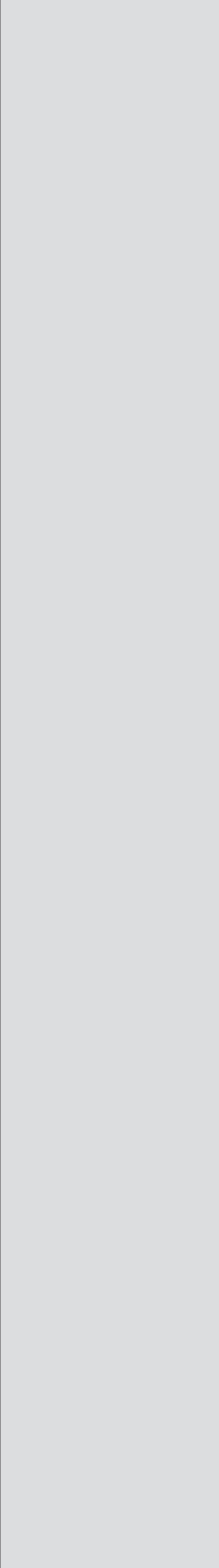
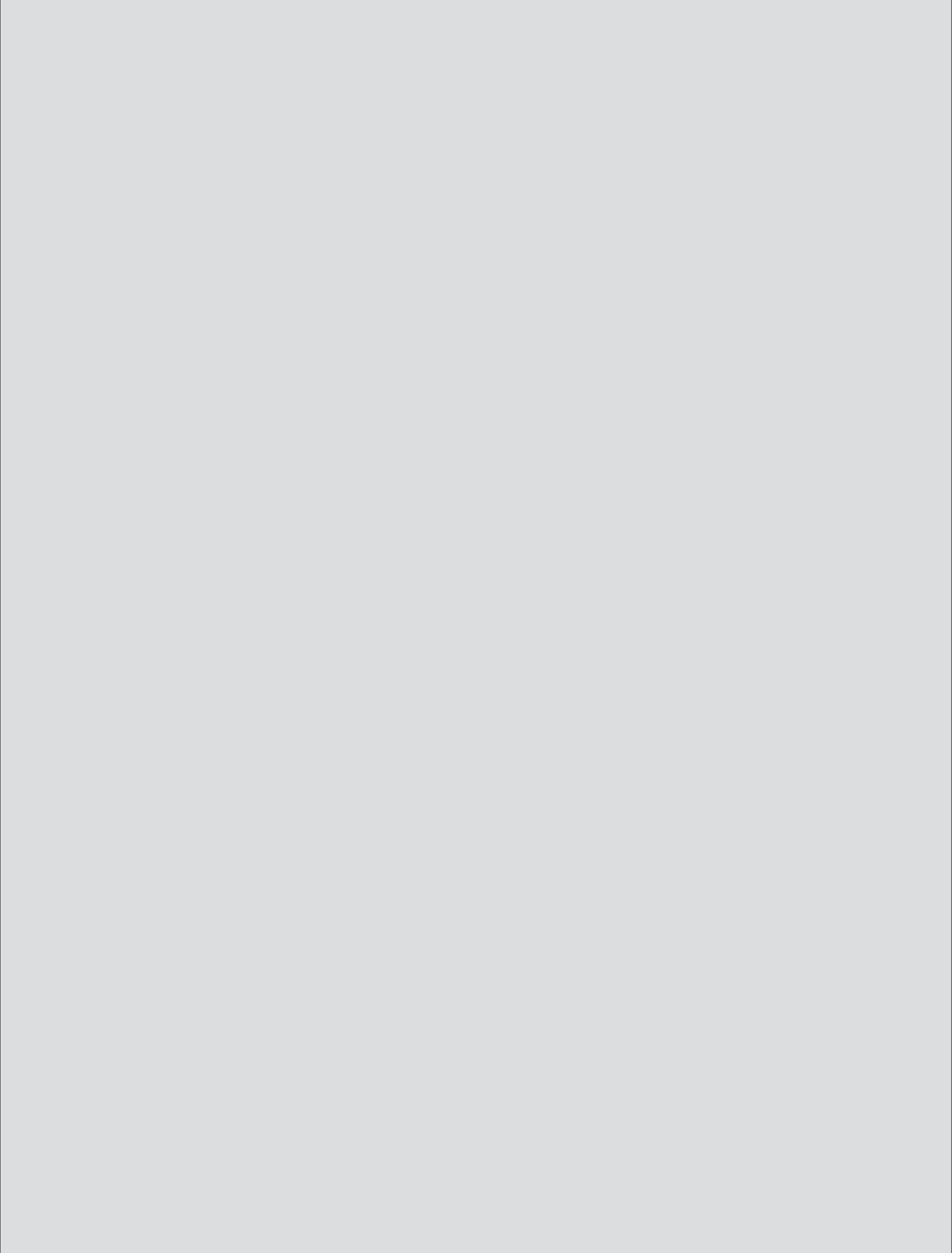
"Someone who is in Iraq right now," she said, "would not have to file their 2004 tax return until they leave Iraq."

However, some overseas servicemembers would want to file early, Colonel Fenton said, because they may be due a refund. Military-operated tax centers at stateside and overseas locales, she said, can provide servicemembers with tax filing assistance.

And, married servicemembers deployed to combat and noncombat overseas locales can opt to have spouses file tax returns, she said, provided there is an applicable power of attorney.










Courtesy photo

### Outstanding — no debrief needed, sir!

Capt. Chris Hoskins, 325th Air Control Squadron assistant operations officer, provides instruction to Maj. Gen. Edward Ellis, 19th Air Force commander, while Senior Airman Natashaia Nikolao, 325th ACS weapons technician, coordinates with Tyndall Radar Approach Control during the general's Undergraduate Air Battle Manager immersion here Feb. 17. General Ellis controlled Tyndall-based MU-2 aircraft during a live 2 vs. 2 training mission, and although he performed admirably, he later commented jokingly, "I sure wouldn't want to be controlled by me. I'm glad the Air Force has great people as Air Battle Managers."

## Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Eric White



2nd Lt. William Powell

**Airman White receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.**

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman White, who is a 325th Security Forces Squadron desk sergeant. He personally executed more than 150 random anti-terrorism measures last quarter, protecting \$3.4 billion in protection level assets.

He was also the primary controller during Hurricane Ivan. Airman White is active in both Tyndall and the local community, as both a fundraiser for his squadron's Defenders' Club and Advisory council, and as a youth mentor at his church.

**Duty title:** Desk sergeant  
**Time on station:** Two years, two months  
**Time in service:** Two years, six months  
**Hometown:** Fall River, Mass.  
**Hobbies:** Cooking, traveling and working out  
**Goals:** Stay out of trouble  
**Favorite movie:** "Cool Runnings"  
**Favorite book:** Any kind of cookbook  
**Pet Peeves:** Rude people going through installation gates  
**Favorite thing about Tyndall:** Spring break  
**Proudest moment in the military:** Serving in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom

*The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.*

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman Brandon Burns, 325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control student.





### WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT JUST WEREN'T MEANT TO BE HANDLED ALONE ...

IF YOU NEED A WINGMAN THE BASE CHAPLAIN, THE LIFE SKILLS COUNSELORS, AND THE PEOPLE AT 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) ARE READY TO HELP.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY





# FTAC prepares Airmen for operational AF

**MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE**  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

To help Airmen reinforce the core skills they learned in basic training as they transition to their first operational duty station, there is a two-week Air Force-wide program called the First Term Airman Course.

“The course transitions Airmen from the training environment to an operational one,” said Master Sgt. Albert Lewis Jr., FTAC flight chief here. “The whole goal is to give our newest Airmen a sense of who they are and reinforce the skills they learned in basic training. They should never think, ‘I’m just an Airman.’ We want to let them know they’re America’s heroes who provide the blanket of freedom America sleeps under.”

Throughout the course, Sergeant Lewis said students receive a series of briefings, tour base facilities and do physical training.

“The curriculum consists of a variety of subjects from a more in-depth look Air Force history to reinforcing appropriate standards of conduct” Sergeant Lewis said. “Our Airmen come to us highly motivated, they’re ready to jump in and do the job and get the mission accomplished.”

Briefers include the wing and vice commander, group commanders, persons from the family support center, office of special investigations, life skills, honor guard and Airmen associations like Tyndall Active Airmen and Airmen Against Drunk Driving. They also delve into the promotional fitness exam.

One all-day briefing that Sergeant Lewis said is especially popular with the students is personal financial management, presented by Michael Coyle, the personal finance management program manager at the Family Support Center.

“The goal is mission readiness,” said Mr. Coyle. “If our Airmen manage their finances effectively, they’ll be freed of the distractions that result from mismanagement. Consequently, they’ll be better able to focus on the mission, and better focus equals better performance.”

“We set them up for success from day one,” Sergeant Lewis said. “We outline a path to help them be more successful in their military careers,” Sergeant Lewis said.

“I learned a lot about the Air Force I didn’t know,” said Airman Danielle Kirby, an air traffic control apprentice with the 325th Operations Support Squadron. “It helped me meet a lot of

**“We set them up for success from day one.”**

**MASTER SGT. ALBERT LEWIS, JR.**  
First Term Airman Course flight chief

people and the course reminds you of lessons you need to succeed throughout your career.”

Airman 1st Class Sedric Wilson, a weapons apprentice in the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit agreed. “It’s an interesting course. It teaches you a lot that’s helpful in your career, especially about making the right decisions to help you keep on track.”

Sergeant Lewis said to help students keep on the right track, the course reinforces the warrior mindset of basic training as well as the standards of dress and appearance, and appropriate standards of conduct.

“We all joined for different reasons, but when we talk, the bottom line is they live and breathe the patriotic emotions that come from the love of freedom,” Sergeant Lewis said. “When they look at the their uniforms, they see the flag and freedom and take pride in the fact they’re doing on of the most important things they’ll ever do in their life.”

Airman 1st Class Jimmy Ramirez, an air traffic control apprentice, said he learned more than he expected in the course.

“I learned a lot more about customs and courtesies and why we do what we do,” he said. “Also, I understand the purpose of being an Airman and why we mean so much to the military.”

Aside from the class briefings and base tour, students also visit a local veterans hospital, an event popular with both students and patients.

“The students have a huge appreciation for the veterans for their sacrifices, and the veterans really appreciate them when they see the uniforms coming through the door, said Sergeant Lewis.

The flight chief added it’s also important for these students to keep applying what they’ve learned after they graduate.

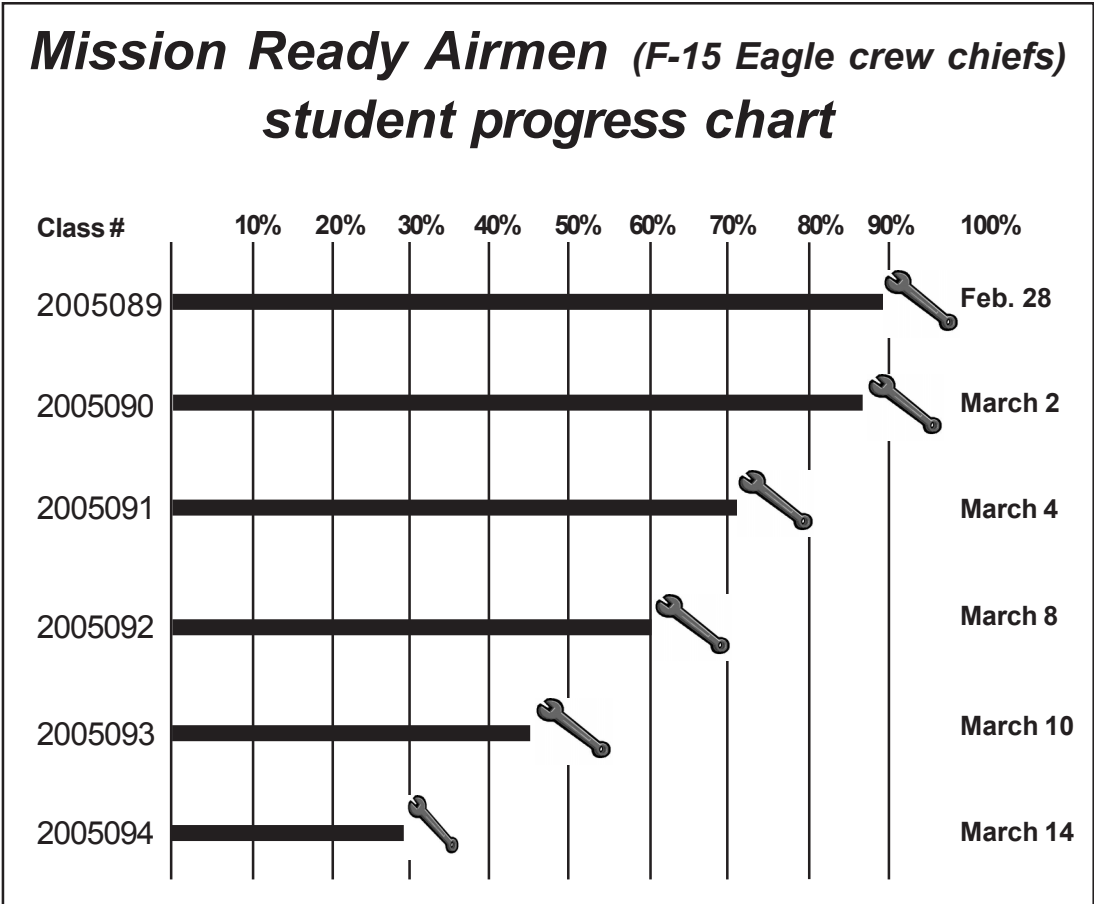
“What we need to ensure throughout the wing is that we don’t deflate their motivation,” Sergeant Lewis said. “They should report to their supervisors with appropriate military bearing and maintain and enforce basic military customs and courtesies. Through this course they affirm they are not just Airmen, they are Airmen who serve a vital role in our Air Force.”



### Hang in there!

Airman 1st Class John McClean, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, learns emergency bail-out procedures and parachuting techniques as Staff Sgt. Michael Olson, 1st Fighter Squadron Life Support survival specialist, hands him an oxygen mask. Airman McClean leaves Saturday for Key West where he will receive an incentive flight in an F-15 Eagle.

2nd Lt. William Powell







## “Talk to me, Goose!”

### *An inside look into the pilot call sign tradition*

Tech. Sgt. Michael Ammons

**2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL**

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Quick—what was Tom Cruise’s call sign in *Top Gun*? How about Anthony Edwards, his back seat radar interrupt officer in the F-14 Tomcat?

Most fans of the military film are quick to respond with “Maverick” and “Goose.” But where do call signs like these come from, and just how does a pilot get “named?”

According to Yvonne Kincaid, an Air Force historian, details are scarce con-

cerning the origin of call signs and how the first pilots were named, but the tradition became popular in World War II.

“The first call signs were likely used by ground controllers to communicate with pilots, as pilot-to-pilot radio wasn’t efficient at that time,” she said. “It was faster and easier to call a pilot by his nickname, and it would have confused the enemy in case they were listening.”

The call sign has since evolved into a tradition celebrated by each branch of the military. Naming rituals vary by

branch and even by squadron, but three rules universally apply: if a pilot doesn’t already have a good name when he arrives at his first operational squadron, his ‘buddies’ will give him one; he probably won’t like it; and if he complains, he’ll get an even worse name.

“There are a few different ways a pilot can earn his call sign,” said Maj. Pedro ‘Mad Dog’ Gonzalez, 2nd Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations. “Some natural call signs play off a person’s last name, such as ‘Speedy’

Gonzalez, Allen ‘Wrench’ or Specht ‘Tater.’”

Other people may get named for how they look, such as ‘Shamu’ if the pilot is carrying a few extra pounds, or named after a movie character he resembles, Major Gonzalez said.

“One pilot here is called ‘Shrek’ because he looks exactly like the movie character, minus the green color,” he said. “No matter what he does, he’s not going to get a different call sign.”

A pilot will often carry his call sign with him from squadron to squadron and as he moves from base to base. The exception is when a pilot draws attention to himself by acting out of the ordinary, which is the third way to receive a name.

“I got my call sign, ‘Mad Dog,’ after a check ride dur-

ing my training,” Major Gonzalez said. “I ‘shot down’ three bad guys, which was good, but I also fired at my evaluator, who was one of the good guys.”

Mad Dog is the unclassified name of an AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missile that is fired at no predetermined target. It is indiscriminating and will shoot down the first thing it sees, friend or foe, he added.

“So my squadron said they would have to send me out to battle first, let me fire off all my missiles, and then send me home so I don’t shoot any friendlies. The name stuck and also sounded pretty tactical, so I got lucky on that one,” he joked.

Depending upon the squadron, a call sign will have more than one explanation behind its origin: one tactical and one highly exaggerated. In some cases, a squadron will name a pilot and then make up a tactical reason for it later. But in all cases, only 10 percent of the story has to be true.

“I was at my naming party in Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, and we had to make radio calls based on what we saw on a pretend radar screen,” said Maj. Christopher Levy, 19th Air Force air-to-air training chief. “Whether or not we got the calls right depended on what we saw. I made some good radio calls, so the squadron decided to name me ‘Yoda.’ It was either because I was the all-knowing, all-seeing fighter pilot, or because I was a short, funny looking man in green with big ears.”

Similar to Major Levy’s naming party, fighter squadrons at Tyndall hold solo



2nd Lt. William Powell

**Maj. Pedro “Mad Dog” Gonzalez, 2nd Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations, checks the landing gear during his pre-flight checklist. The major received his call sign after “shooting” everyone, including the good guys, during an F-15 Eagle evaluation flight.**



parties to give student pilots temporary call signs following their first solo flight in an F-15 Eagle.

"I was taught all the initial fundamentals of flying the Eagle by Maj. Craig 'Buick' Dye, who is well-known amongst the other instructors here for his unique teaching style and short stature," said 1st Lt. Jon Snyder, 2nd FS B-Course student. "So, the instructors named me 'Pontiac' because a Pontiac is larger and quieter than a Buick, but drives worse."

Even innocent-sounding call signs may have an embarrassing or funny story behind them, as is the case with many pilots. 'Torch' is a relatively pleasant name, for example, but according to Maj. Matt Esper, 1st FS assistant director of operations, his story involves him "going down in flames."

"I was selected to run the Olympic torch prior to the Atlanta Olympics,"

Major Esper said. "I had to run about a mile and then hand the torch to another runner, a Special Olympian. As I approached the handoff point, I concentrated so hard on the handoff that I forgot to look at the pavement, which was slightly uneven. I tripped and fell and

broke my fall with my face instead of dropping the torch. The Special Olympian thought it was the funniest thing he had ever seen and gave me no credit for

not dropping the torch."

No matter what embarrassing or funny things a pilot does, the call sign he receives is normally not too offensive or humiliating. Pilots still have an image to uphold as American defenders.

But as they defend America and her allies, they know one wrong move or embarrassing situation could be summed up in one word and forever immortalized as their call sign.

#### Four typical rules for a call sign:

1. The pilot's 'buddies' will select an appropriate call sign after going through 30 or 40 possible embarrassing options
2. He probably won't like the name
3. If he complains, he'll get an even worse name
4. Only about 10 percent of the story behind the name has to be true



**Left:** First Lieutenant Jon "Pontiac" Snyder, former F-15 Eagle Basic Course student, dons his G-suit and life support equipment before his final flight as an Eagle student. Lieutenant Snyder received his training call sign as a tribute to his instructor.

**Below:** Maj. Matthew "Torch" Esper, 1st Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations, inspects his helmet before he pilots an F-15 Eagle. Major Esper received his call sign after an unfortunate event with an Olympic torch that led to him going down in flames.

Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell



2nd Lt. William Powell



## Briefs

### RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office at 283-2737.

### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

ERAU Spring B 2005 term registration will be March 14-18. Class dates are March 21-May 21. Register for ERAU distance learning undergraduate courses through Feb. 28 for term dates March 15-June 6. Graduate distance learning course registration ends Tuesday for term dates March 7-June 20. Register for ERAU distance learning undergraduate courses through March 31 for term dates April 15 - July 7. To register for all classes, come to Bldg. 1230, Rm. 49 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call 283-4557.

### GCCC update

Register now for the Western Civilization II that starts March 9 at the Tyndall Center of Gulf Coast Community College. Also, a placement test will be held at the Tyndall Center on March 9 at 1 pm. Advanced payment of \$4 will guarantee your spot. For more information, call 283-4332.

### Limited library service

The library computer lab will be closed periodically until Wednesday to facilitate installation of the new Integrated Library System. This new system will allow customers to remotely access the library database to reserve, renew, and hold material for review. We recommend customers call the library at 283-2221 before visiting to check availability of the computer lab. Additionally, the Library will be closed Tuesday so the contractor can conduct final installation of the system.

### Munitions closure

The Munitions Storage Area will be performing a closed warehouse inventory through March 4. Only emergency issues will be met during this week. All personal documents must be correct in order to make this run as smooth as possible. Issues or turn-ins must be scheduled before this week. For more information, call 283-0137.

### Scholarship and camp opportunities

The Society of American Military Engineers has scholarship and summer camp applications and information are available at the SAME Panama City Post Web site: [posts.same.org/](http://posts.same.org/)

## This won't hurt a bit ...

**Paris Golden, a lab technician from the Armed Services Blood Program, prepares to take blood from Airman 1st Class Michael Hoffman, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit avionics specialist, Feb. 17 during a blood drive here. Technicians from the 81st Medical Group, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., collected 74 pints of blood from Tyndall members, which will benefit servicemembers deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism.**



2nd Lt. William Powell

[panamacity/Programs\\_05.htm](http://panamacity/Programs_05.htm). Engineering and Construction Summer Camp applications for high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are due by March 15. High school seniors must submit scholarship applications by March 31.

### Air National Guard opportunities

The 109th Airlift Wing, in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has Traditional Guard vacancies available. For more information, contact Master Sgt. James Reeves, at DSN 344-2457 or 1-800-524-5070, or by e-mail at [James.Reeves@nyscot.af.mil](mailto:James.Reeves@nyscot.af.mil).

### Palace Chase force shaping

With the Air Force close to reaching their desired force shaping numbers, the Force Shaping program will soon be coming to a close. Members who are thinking about leaving active duty early can transfer their commitment into the Air Force Reserve without having to payback bonuses, and while maintaining many of the same benefits. There are Air Force Reserve opportunities available in many locations in the U.S. and overseas. Retraining into a different career field is also an option. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Randi Baum at 283-8384 at [randi.baum@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:randi.baum@tyndall.af.mil) or visit the Military Personnel Flight, Bldg. 662, Rm. 222.

### Massage therapist wanted

The Health and Wellness Center is seeking a massage therapist concessionaire to perform massage therapy at the Wellness Clinic, Bldg. 1307. This is a non-appropriated funds position. For additional information, contact Master Sgt. Otis Nattiel at 283-0137.

### Parent Advisory Board

The next meeting for the Parent Advisory

Board will be May 18 in the Community Activity Center. Parents who have children in the Family Child Care program, the Child Development Center and/or the Youth Center are encouraged to attend. If parents cannot attend, feedback sheets are available for comments/concerns. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Iris Hague at 283-4589.

### Moms, Pops and Tots

The Tyndall Community Center is offering Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots each Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m. Bring your ideas on how we can make this a fun, exciting and educational experience for all. For more information, contact Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail [znory7@yahoo.com](mailto:znory7@yahoo.com).

### Stray pets

Call 283-4949 to report stray animals in base housing. If your pet is missing call 283-4949 to determine if your pet was picked up as a stray. To retrieve your pets call the Parkway Animal Hospital and Pet Hotel, at 763-8387, within five days. You are required to show proof of vaccination and registration before your pet will be released to you.

## Garage Sales

2740 B Eagle Drive

Garage sales are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

## Chapel Schedule

### Weekly Bible Study

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in room 108.

### Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two  
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment  
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two  
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two  
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

### Protestant Sunday services

Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One  
Religious education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1476  
General Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two  
Sunday Night Live Service, 6 p.m., Chapel One

### Tyndall Chapel Lenten/Easter Schedule:

#### Ecumenical:

Lenten Devotions/Mass, 11:30 a.m., Chapel Two  
Lenten Soup Luncheons will be at noon on Tuesdays through March 15 in Chapel Two

#### Catholic, in Chapel 2:

Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 6 p.m., through March 18  
Palm Sunday Mass, 9:15 a.m. March 20  
Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m., March 24  
Good Friday Service, 3 p.m. March 25  
Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. March 26  
Easter Mass, 9:30 a.m. March 27

#### Protestant:

Palm Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m., March 20, Chapel One  
Palm Sunday Service, 11 a.m., March 20, Chapel Two  
Maundy Thursday, 5 p.m., March 24, Chapel One  
Good Friday, 5 p.m., March 25, Chapel One  
Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., March 26, Shoal Point



# E'Club deals fun, new game

STEVE RIDDLE

325th Services Squadron publicist

Tyndall clubs are providing Air Force club members the opportunity get in on a new card game craze and win valuable prizes while playing, including a brand new car.

"The clubs are presenting a members-only program of a very popular card game that's sweeping the country – Texas Hold 'Em," explained Jerry LaFrance, 325th Services Squadron Business Operations Flight chief. "It's an eight-week tournament that has seven qualifying rounds and a championship round, and the top seven players from each qualifying week will automatically be eligible to compete in championship play April 16."

The tournament kicks off Saturday at 7:45 p.m. in Classics Lounge at the Tyndall Enlisted Club, with the doors opening at 6 p.m. This is open to Air Force club members of all ranks. Non-club members wanting to play can sign up for club membership at the door or stop by the Officers' Club office Monday through Friday. Membership dues are free for the first year for enlisted ranks E-1 through E-4, and all second lieutenants assigned to Tyndall Air Force Base.

Tournament sign-up will continue up to 15 minutes before each round begins. The

cost is \$15 per round, and includes 5,000 points worth of chips and free snacks while playing. The top three weekly winners will receive prizes, and each week, that individual accumulating the most points will have a chance to win the new car.

"Lloyd Nissan Pontiac has agreed to provide us with a new car, which one lucky player each week will have a chance to win," said Joni Geels, commercial sponsorship coordinator, 325th SVS. "At the end of the night, we will put one card each into 20 different envelopes. The winner will draw five of those, and if the cards they pick make a royal flush, they win the car."

The championship round will be April 16, and is open to the top seven players from each of the previous qualifying rounds. The top three winners of the championship round will divide nearly \$1,000 worth of prizes and trophies amongst themselves.

"This is yet another program that was recommended by club members through the Club Advisory Committee," Mr. LaFrance said. "They asked for it, and we provided it for them."

For more information on the Texas Hold 'Em Tournament, contact the Tyndall clubs at 283-4357.



Steve Riddle

## On the right track

Tyndall Fitness Center director Lou South inspects the running track Wednesday morning. The fitness center's running track, which circles the football field behind the fitness center, is being resurfaced with rubberized shreds and is scheduled to reopen Tuesday. A new exercise pad has also been added at the east end of the football field to provide a place for stretching and calisthenics, and is being covered with the same surface as the track. Mr. South said the track will have a smoother, softer surface. For more information on fitness center hours and programs, call 283-2631.

## Tyndall takes third at post-season tourney

The Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity basketball team, South East Men's Athletic Conference Regular Season champions, fell short of their goal of a third consecutive post season championship as they took third at the recently completed tournament held at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

In their first game of the tourney versus Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., a fired up Tyndall squad quickly jumped on the Dragons as they took a 7-0 lead when the lights went out in the gym, halting the game for 30 minutes. When play resumed, the Tigers could not regain their fire. Tyndall led 35-32 at the half, but in the second half, a scoring drought down the stretch enabled Keesler to build a five point lead and go into their delay game, forcing the Tigers to foul. Keesler sealed its victory from the charity stripe, winning the game 85-73.

Elvin Walker paced the Tigers in scoring with 28 points, followed by Anthony Showers with 17 and Tysen Pina with 16. Rob Montgomery led in rebounding with 11. Kenny Dukes led Keesler in scoring with a game-high 39 points.

Their opening loss left the Tigers with the task of having to win three games on Sunday to get to the championship game on Monday. In their second game versus Hurlburt Field, Fla., Elvin Walker and Omar Johnson scored 25 and 24 points respectively as the Tigers returned to their winning ways, taking the game 82-74. Tysen Pina had 11 points, and Tom Jackson led Hurlburt in scoring with a game-high 27 points.

During their game versus Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., the Tigers jumped out to an early lead and never looked back as they took a 49-37 lead into the half. In the second half, Tyndall stretched its lead to as many as 26 points as they coasted to the victory, 87-78.

Elvin Walker led Tyndall in scoring with a game-high 27 points, followed by Anthony Showers and Tysen Pina with 17 points each and Omar Johnson with 10. Johnson led in both assists and rebounds with seven each.

The Tigers third game of the day was a rematch with Keesler, with the winner advancing to the championship game versus Moody Air Force Base, Ga. Tyndall, behind Elvin Walker's 16 first half points, built a 27-21 lead at the intermission. In the second half, the two teams battled down to the final seconds. Keesler led by two points 54-42 with 57.8 seconds remaining in the contest. A Tigers turnover and an ill-advised shot preceded a 3-pointer by Elvin Walker that brought Tyndall back to a two point deficit with 12.6 seconds remaining. Kenny Dukes closed out the scoring by sinking four free throws to seal Keesler's victory over the Tigers, 61-55.

Elvin Walker again paced Tyndall in scoring with a game-high 29 points, followed by Omar Johnson with 10 points, while Rob Montgomery continued his outstanding work on the boards as he pulled down 15 rebounds. Keesler defeated Moody in back-to-back games to claim the championship.

(Courtesy of the Tyndall Tigers)

## Tyndall Tigers' SEMAC and post-season awards

### All SEMAC

Robert Montgomery, 325th Air Control Squadron

Tysen Pina, 325th ACS

Omar Johnson, 325th Security Forces Squadron

Elvin Walker, 43rd Fighter Squadron

### Most Valuable Player

Elvin Walker, 43rd FS

### Coach of the Year

William Sharpe, 601st Combat Operations Squadron

### Post-season Tournament

#### All-Tournament

Elvin Walker, 43rd FS

Anthony Showers, 325th Communications Squadron





# Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

**All Ranks  
at the O' Club**  
**Sunday  
Brunch**  
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**\$8.95**  
**- Menu -**  
 Meat Carving Station  
 Omelets  
 Belgian Waffles  
 Sausage  
 Bacon  
 Hash Browns  
 Fresh Fruit  
 Muffins  
 Danish  
 Biscuits & Gravy  
 Scrambled Eggs  
 Champagne available - add \$3  
 Members, show your club card  
 to receive a \$1 discount!  
**283-4357**



All Ranks at the Enlisted Club  
**Free Movie  
Night**  
 Thursday  
**National Treasure**  
 Rated PG  
**Movie 6 p.m.**

As Gates family legend has it, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin hid a massive cache of gold during the waning days of the Revolutionary War. Gates sets out to crack the code that will lead him to the fortune.

**Snack Bar Items Include:**

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs, nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

**283-4357**

**Community Center**

☎ 283-2495

**Blarney Stone Contest**

Guess the weight of the Blarney Stone and you could win Pizza Buffet for 2, including two tickets to Carmike Cinemas Theater. One entry per person, winner will be announced March 17 at 3 p.m.

Pizza Pub in the CAC  
**Nascar Race  
Sunday**

Auto Club 500  
 Pizza Pub opens at  
 12:30 race begins at 1

Races shown at the Pizza Pub  
 Prizes for participation will be given at each event. Must be a current AETC Club member to win.

**283-3222 for details**

Community Center  
**Base Level Billiards  
Tournament**

**March 12 at 11 a.m.**

This event is open to:

- (1) Active duty AF Members
  - (2) DOD Civilians, contractors, spouses, eligible family members & retirees.
- All participants must be 18 yrs old.  
 Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place  
 All participants must sign-up by March 9

**Youth Center**

☎ 283-4366

**Congratulations  
325th Services Squadron**

for being selected to compete  
 for the  
 AF Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank  
 Services Award nomination

Get ready to...  
**Skate Like a Pro**

Sign up for Freestyle/Flatland Skateboarding. Learn basic to advanced tricks taught by former World Freestyle Amateur Champion and current touring professional John Leathers. Classes are open to ages seven and up and the cost is \$20 per session or \$75 for 4 sessions.

Classes are held at the Youth Center gym and will include special skate trips with Team "TNT" and special guest skaters. Program dates and times are as follows:

**Mar. 12: 10-12 p.m.**

**Mar. 26: 10-12 p.m.**

Call 283-4366

for more information.



**FREESTYLE**

Sports Page Pizza Pub at the CAC  
**Open Mic Night**  
 Are you a singer,  
 musician,  
 comedian or poet?

Come out and join us!

**Wednesday  
5 to 9 p.m.**

1/2 off all Appetizers  
 \$1 Beverage Specials

**Call 283-3222  
or 283-2495  
for more information.**



**Play Texas**

**Hold 'Em !**

**All Ranks at the Enlisted Club**

Begins Saturday  
 Play every Saturday for seven weeks.

Grand Championship April 16

\$15 per player per week includes food and 5,000 in chips

Nightly winner has chance to draw a "Royal Flush" and win a car.

Top three nightly winners awarded prizes

Seating is limited.

Sign up today.

**Call 283-4357**

Must be active USAF Clubs members.

**Tyndall Enlisted Club**



**Latin  
Dance Night**  
**March 5, 8 p.m.**

Latin dance night is on the first Saturday  
 of each month

**For details call 283-4357**



# TSP ‘open season’ limitations to end

**GERRY J. GILMORE**  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)** — Defense Department civilians and servicemembers building tax-free retirement accounts through the Thrift Savings Plan soon will be able to change their investment options at any time instead of just twice a year.

Current biannual TSP “open season” investment-choice windows will end July 1, said Army Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. TSP participants, she said, will be able to switch their retirement account options at any time.

Colonel Fenton said “there’s not going to be the two open seasons during the year” where people can sign up for the retirement savings and investment program, change their contribution levels or change investment options.

Military people and civilians covered by the Civil Service Retirement System can contribute up to 10 percent of their

paycheck to establish tax-free retirement accounts that grow from accumulated savings and investments in bonds, stocks and international funds. Employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System can contribute up to 15 percent in 2005. From 2006 on, no limit will apply to any participants in TSP.

Another TSP change also slated to start July 1 gives participants the choice of having a financial manager automatically adjust how funds are invested as market conditions change, officials said.

Establishing a TSP account is a good idea even for those servicemembers who do not serve long enough to qualify for a pension, Colonel Fenton said. TSP funds accumulated during military service, she said, can be transferred to participating federal agency TSPs if a departing servicemember takes a government civilian job.

TSP savings can also be rolled into nongovernment civilian employers’ individual retirement accounts, the colonel said.

## Let us pray ...

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joseph Motsay, 325th Fighter Wing chaplain, addresses a crowd during the wing's annual National Prayer Luncheon at the Enlisted Club Feb. 17 . Nearly 200 people from Tyndall and the community attended to enjoy food, prayer and song.**



Lisa Norman

● FROM FREEDOM PAGE 2

about 100 local laborers who were placing sandbags around living quarters to increase the security for personnel assigned there. My unexpected teacher was a 14-year old Iraqi boy who was part of the work crew.

On one of their rare breaks, I asked him what democracy meant to him. To my surprise, he said, “It means the lights come on every time I flip the switch.” This was not what I expected to hear so I continued with, “It’s got to mean more than that to you.” Boldly he said, “It means never being hungry and it means I can go to school.”

Out of his young mouth, his words required me to reflect on the facts that for decades, people of his nation were not free from tyranny, and the ideal of democracy was a foreign to him as speaking Mandarin Chinese was to me.

I would argue that this was not true in America, nor will it be true in Iraq.

I base this belief on that rainy February day when I was part of the team

that went to the army recruitment center, about a mile from the Coalition Provisional Authority’s high security compound. As about 300 Iraqis gathered outside its locked gates waiting for it to open, a suicide bomber blew himself up by the center.

Iraqi men were killed as they stood in line to join. The rain, which normally cleaned the sand from date palm trees, today ran red with the blood of people who wanted their country back.

After my initial queasiness of seeing things I wish I could forget, an Iraqi man slightly older than me approached. Not knowing whether I should trust him or not, I told him to stop.

When he did not stop, my 9mm was out of my holster before I even realized it. A military policeman approached him and cleared him as a “good-guy.”

With my adrenalin running high, I was trying to calm my nerves when he began speaking to me. His first question was as difficult for me to grasp as the surreal situation I found myself in. “When will the recruiting station open again?”

I just couldn’t believe my ears! “How can you ask me this after seeing so many of your countrymen die here today?” I asked him. He told me that two of his brothers had died there just in front of him in the line.

It was too much for me to come to terms with: the rain, the blood, the question. He stepped from my right side and came to face me, well inside my personal space. With eyes very difficult to read he told me, “I ask because I want to join.”

My mind screamed, “How could he still want to join after seeing his brothers die there?” but my quietly spoken question was a single word, “Why?”

“Because,” he said, “I want what you have — freedom.”

We need to remain in Iraq as long as it takes. We need to remain devoted to their fledging attempts to embrace a new way of life in their country’s first free elections in 50 years. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “Sometimes we fail to hear or heed these voices of freedom because to us the privilege of our freedom is such an old, old story.”

Training Spotlight

What is your training at Tyndall preparing you to do at your next duty station?

“I’ll be one of two or three officers who oversee and manage an entire airfield and air traffic control facilities.”

2ND LT. TONY FANTOZZI  
325th Operations Support Squadron air traffic control student



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Visit for the latest  
news and information





Steve Wallace

### Congratulations ABM Class 05007

From left: Graduates of 325th Air Control Squadron Undergraduate Air Battle Manager Training Class 05007 1st Lt. Jason Timm, 2nd Lt. Kisha Culver and 2nd Lt. Chris Howell discuss their future as air battle managers over lunch with Lt. Col. Gregory Guillot, 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron commander at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Colonel Guillot was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony Wednesday.



### Questions about career options?

Call Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, for answers to retraining or special duty questions at 283-2222.

● FROM HOUSING PAGE 5

Point and Felix Lake housing, provide major renovations or new housing in the Wood Manor area, and provide the developer with land northwest of Redfish Point and land west of Wood Manor for potential new housing neighborhoods. Housing in the Bay View and Shoal Point neighborhoods will be occupied through the project construction period, about seven years or so, then be demolished. However, project-specific details won't be available until after the developers' proposals have been evaluated later this summer.

"The best part about the whole privatization package is that Team Tyndall military members will get quality housing," Colonel Van De Walle said. "That will happen because privatization empowers the housing construction industry to leverage their great homebuilding experience and resources to compete for a funding stream that is worth approximately \$9.5 million per year at Tyndall alone."

Colonel Van De Walle added privatization allows developers a lot of lati-

**“The military families win because they will have an opportunity to live in housing that is equivalent to a new or newly renovated subdivision downtown.”**

**LT. COL. CURT VAN DE WALLE**  
325th Civil Engineer Squadron commander

tude with regards to design of houses and neighborhoods to allow them to compete against each other, which was never the case with traditional construction.

"The conventional wisdom is that the worst house you will get with privatization is better than the best house you could get with traditional military family construction," he said.

For more information on Tyndall's privatization initiative or updates, contact Glenn Lattanze 283-4712 or via email at [Glenn.Lattanze@tyndall.af.mil](mailto:Glenn.Lattanze@tyndall.af.mil). Additional information is also available on the Air Force Housing Privatization Web site at [www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/dc/dcp/news/](http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/dc/dcp/news/).



